

**North Carolina Department of Transportation
Division of Highway
Traffic Engineering and Safety Systems Branch**

**STANDARD PRACTICE
for
Signing National Championship for Schools of Higher Education:
Colleges, Universities, and other Post High School Educational Institutions**

The purpose of this standard practice is to establish minimum guidelines for supplemental signing of National Championship for Schools of Higher Education (*Colleges, Universities, and other post High School Educational Institutions*) along NCDOT roadways. It is not intended to allow signing for the purpose of advertisement or promotion of educational facilities. The intent is to set reasonable guidelines to promote statewide consistency in responses to signing requests for National Championship for Schools of Higher Education.

It is the standard practice of NCDOT to allow the installation of supplemental signs to qualifying colleges and universities, and other qualifying post High School Educational Institutions. If the school of higher education obtains a National Championship from a sport recognized by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), then the request shall be evaluated under the requirements and criteria identified below. The Department requires reimbursement for funding all costs involved in field investigation, designing, administering, fabricating, installing, inspecting, and maintaining signs. The Department requires reimbursement of \$2,000 per sign. Each school may have up to 8 signs. Signs shall be designed, located, and erected on NCDOT roadways according to the standards of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), the North Carolina Supplement to the MUTCD, and the North Carolina Roadway Standard Drawings, and the standards and criteria herein.

CRITERIA

If right of way is available for sign installation(s) and if not prohibited by signing guidelines such as sign spacing along roadway, number of destinations permitted on sign, etc., signs may be erected along roadways by the NCDOT upon request, but only for schools of higher education that meet all of the following criteria:

1. To qualify for national championship signing, the university must obtain a national championship from a sport recognized by the NCAA beginning January 1, 2017. Club sports are not eligible for championship signing.
2. Requests for signing locations may be submitted to Board of Transportation (BOT) by the institution with justification of need and supporting documentation. These requests will be reviewed and approved through the Board of Transportation's Road, Bridge, Ferry Naming Committee prior to going before the full BOT for final approval.
3. Requests should be submitted during the year the school is the reigning champion and the signs are to remain in place for a maximum of two years. No multiyear championship signs shall be erected. Only one national championship school can be on a given route segment at one time. The BOT reserves the right to waive this on a case by case basis if there is adequate room for two national championship schools.

4. It is the responsibility of the requestor to secure/provide funding for all costs involved in field investigation, designing, administering, fabricating, installing, inspecting, and maintaining signs. A reimbursable agreement between the requestor and the Department is required. If a qualifying school requests a name change on the sign, the school must pay all costs associated with changing the sign including new supports.
5. Once the two year maximum timeframe is met, the requesting party will receive notification of the sign removal and the option to retrieve sign. If sign was installed utilizing funding from the State, sign will be recycled by the Signing Reclaiming Service with Correction Enterprises.
6. Signing for National Championship for schools of higher education is considered supplemental to the overall signing system for freeways, expressways and conventional roads. Therefore, before a championship sign is installed, sufficient space shall exist to accommodate the placement of the sign without interfering or conflicting with required signing. Additionally, championship signs are not allowed a major decision points.
7. The Department will work with requestors on the sign designs and will conform with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) Section 2M.10.
8. The Department has the responsibility and authority to relocate or remove signs on NCDOT highway right-of-way if a need for a higher priority regulatory, warning, or guide sign is identified. No refund or reimbursement will be made for removed signs.
9. The NCDOT reserves the right to cover, relocate, or remove any signs for maintenance or construction operations, or when deemed to be in the best interest of the NCDOT or the traveling public, without advance notice. The NCDOT reserves the right to remove signs when roadway improvements or changes in the roadway cross section or configuration will no longer accommodate the existing signs. No refund or reimbursement will be made for removed signs. If existing signs no longer meet the Department's size and design requirements for an upgraded roadway and existing signs are removed, the facility may request to upgrade their signs, provided that minimum spacing is available on the upgraded roadway.
10. As described in General Statute 136-30 (a), (b), and (d), the Department has the authority to control all signs within the right of way of the State Highway System.

§ G.S. 136-30. Uniform signs and other traffic control devices on highways, streets, and public vehicular areas. (a) State Highway System. - The Department of Transportation may number and mark highways in the State highway system. All traffic signs and other traffic control devices placed on a highway in the State highway system must conform to the Uniform Manual. The Department of Transportation shall have the power to control all signs within the right-of-way of highways in the State highway system. The Department of Transportation may erect signs directing persons to roads and places of importance. (b) Municipal Street System. - All traffic signs and other traffic control devices placed on a municipal street system street must conform to the appearance criteria of the Uniform Manual. All traffic control devices placed on a highway that is within the corporate limits of a municipality but is part of the State highway system must be approved by the Department of Transportation. (d) Definition. - As used in this section, the term "Uniform Manual" means the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways, published by the United States Department of Transportation, and any supplement to that Manual adopted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation.